

The logo consists of five horizontal bars of varying colors: olive green, brown, orange, light tan, and olive green.

Nebraska's

Natural Resources Districts



**SD Regional Watershed Advisory Task Force Meeting
September 16, 2013
Webster, SD**

**Dean E. Edson
Executive Director
Nebraska Association of Resources Districts**

"Celebrating 41 Years of Protecting Lives, Property and the Future of Nebraska's Natural Resources"

Presentation Overview

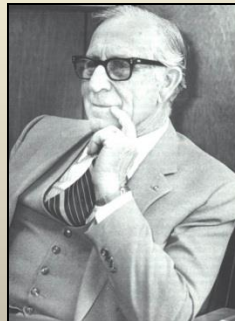
1. NRD Structure and History
2. NRD Program Summaries
3. LR 314- Legislative Interim Study
4. NRD Water Management Projects
5. Questions and Answers

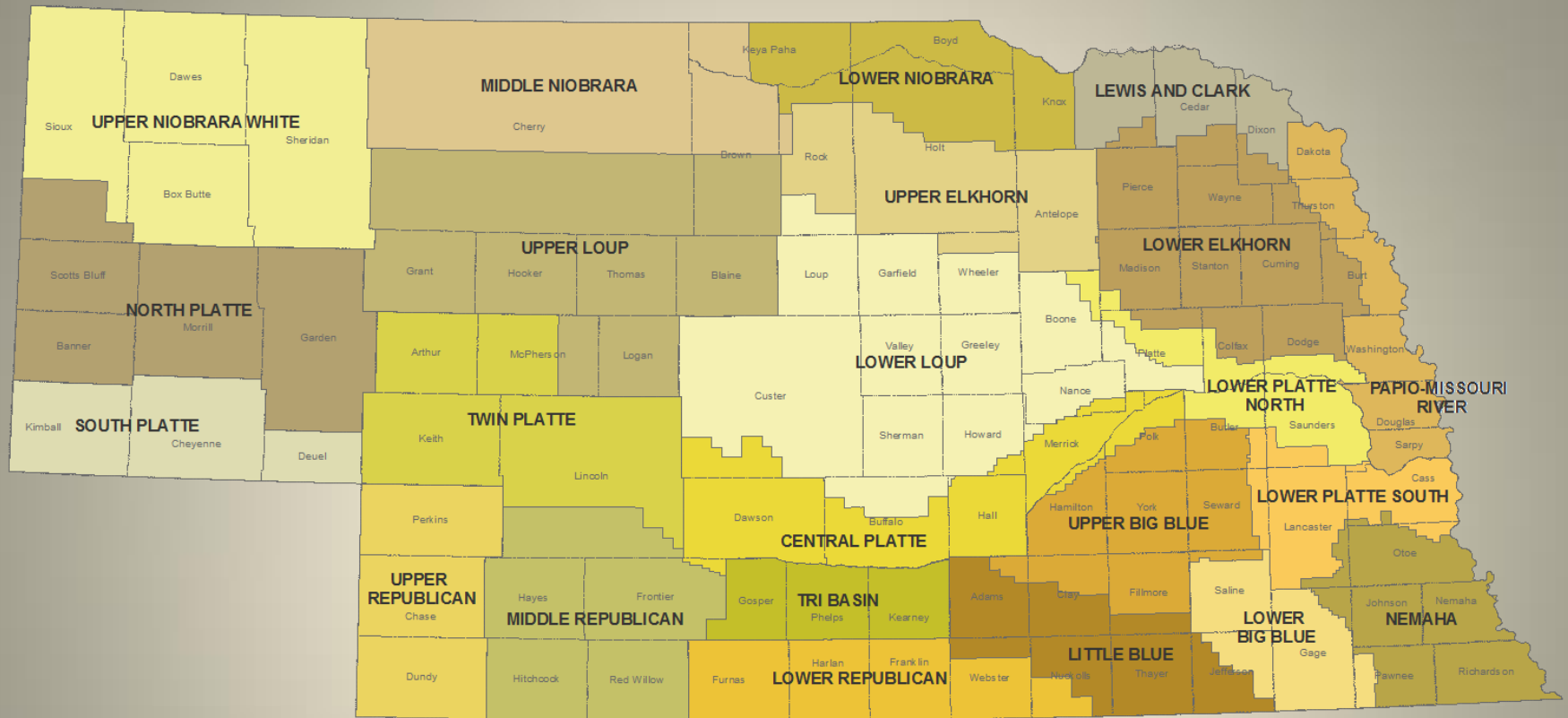
Creation of the NRD System

- In April 1969, four senators introduced LB1357 in order to consolidate 154 special-purpose districts into a series of multipurpose districts based on river basin boundaries.
- Unique to Nebraska
- Law became effective in 1972

Primary Sponsor of L.B. 1357:

- ***Maurice Kremer*** (Aurora)





Nebraska's 23 Natural Resources Districts

NRD Board Structure

- Locally elected at the general election
- Any eligible voter can run
- Board size – 7 -21 members (set by the local board)
- 321 board members total
- Sub districts and/or at large
- Statute allows for 3 to 1 ratio but most at 1 person – 1 vote



NRD Employees

- 360 Employees
- NARD does training and certification programs for employees
- All full-time employees are provided health insurance through the NARD Risk Pool Insurance Program.
- All eligible employees participate in the NARD 414 (h) Retirement Program (19 and 6 months of service)
- Additional 457 Retirement Program available

What Does a NRD Really Do?...

12 Statutory Responsibilities:

- 1) Erosion prevention and control
- 2) Prevention of damages from flood water and sediment
- 3) Flood prevention and control
- 4) Soil conservation
- 5) Water supply for any beneficial uses
- 6) Development, management, utilization, and conservation of ground water and surface water
- 7) Pollution control
- 8) Solid waste disposal and sanitary drainage
- 9) Drainage improvement and channel rectification
- 10) Development and management of fish and wildlife habitat
- 11) Development and management of recreational and park facilities
- 12) Forestry and range management.



NRD Programs – Soil Conservation

- Cost share for farm conservation programs
 - Tailored for local needs
- Cost share for urban conservation programs
- Provide some NRCS Staffing and Technical Service



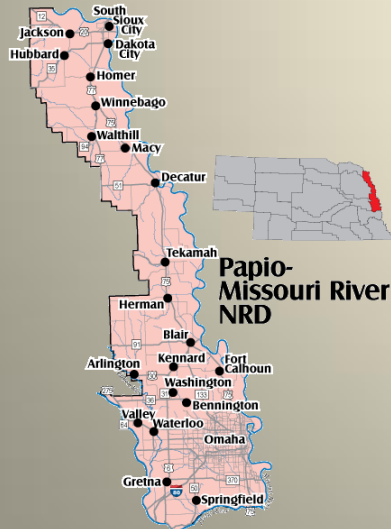
NRD Programs -- Flood Control



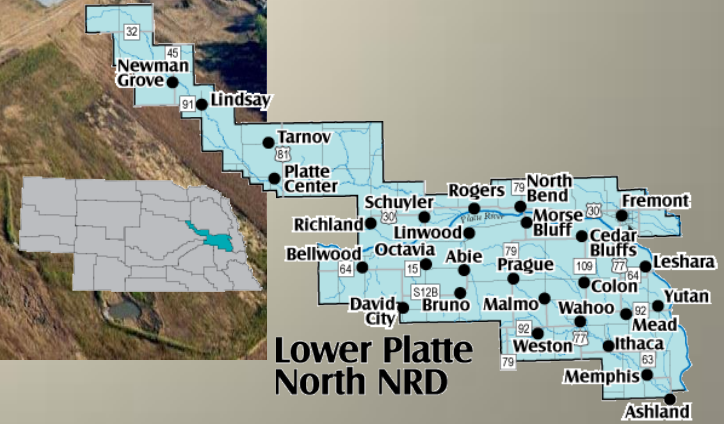
- **NRDs have constructed more than 700 flood structures.**

(Left) Flood control Dam offering increased flood prevention to Omaha Metro Area.

(Below) Wetland dam constructed to filter runoff/sedimentation previously flowing directly into Wehrspann Lake in Omaha



NRD Programs -- Flood Control



**Lower Platte
North NRD**

NRD Programs -- Water Quality Management

- Nitrate Management
 - Rules and regulations on fertilizer applications
- Chemigation permits and inspection
- Research & Demonstration Projects



NRD Programs – Water Quantity Management

Each District has Groundwater Management Plan

- Rules and regulations in place to manage for quantity.
- Can go to allocations if declines in water tables are severe.

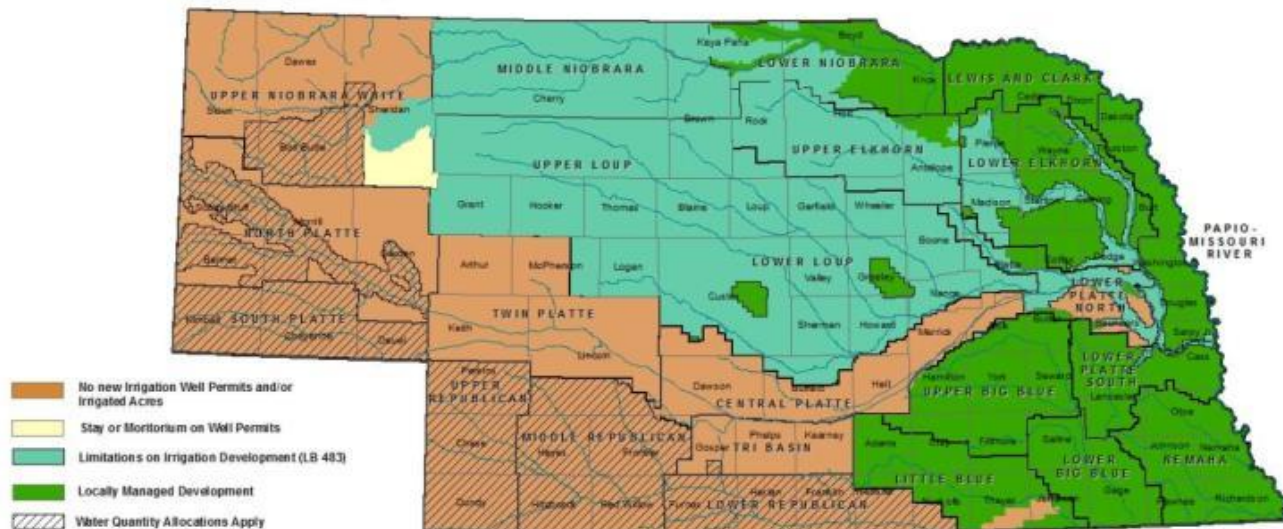
NRD Programs -- Integrated Water Management Plans (IMPs)

- Sustain a balance between basin water supplies and uses (both ground and surface water)...
- ...to sustain the economic viability and environmental and social health, safety, and welfare of the basin...
- ...for both the near and long term.
- Mandatory for fully or over appropriated as determined by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.
- Voluntary for NRDs not fully appropriated.

Integrated Water Management Plans (IMP)

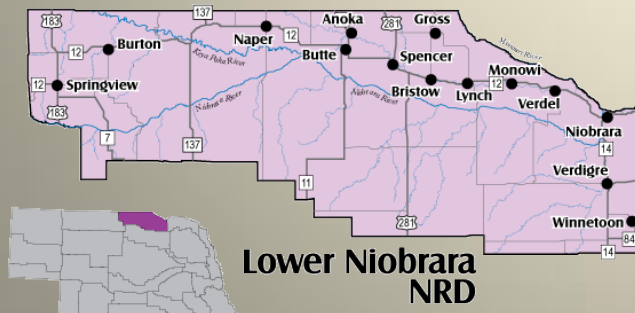
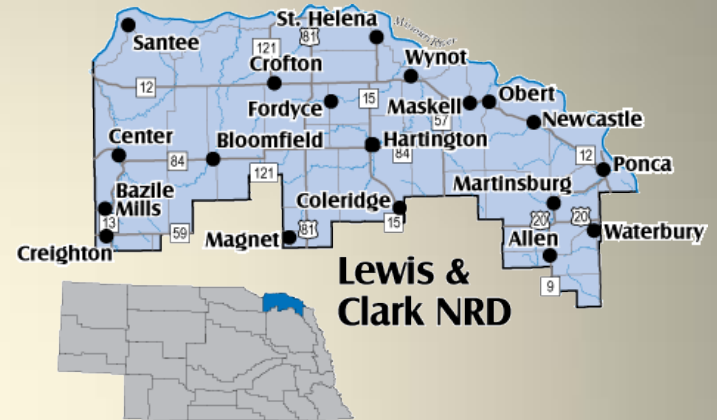
IMPs – Areas in Orange

Restrictions on Groundwater Irrigation

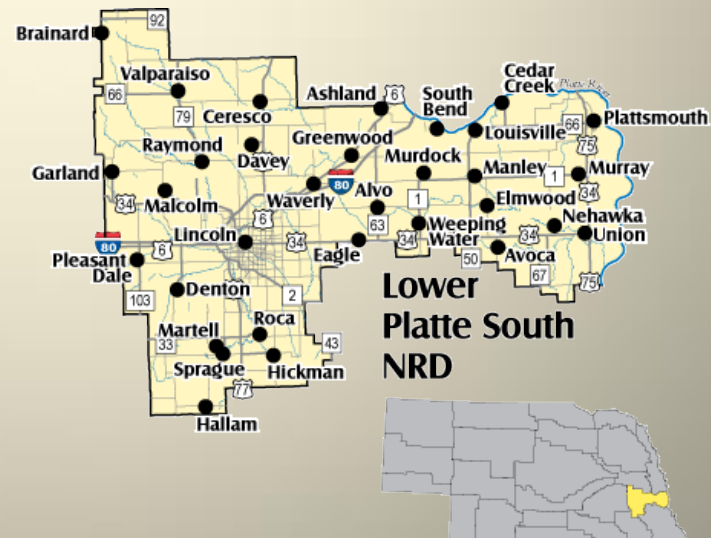


This map is for general reference only. Portions of some sections represented as subject to a stay, moratorium or limitation may not be restricted. Contact the local Natural Resources District for more information.

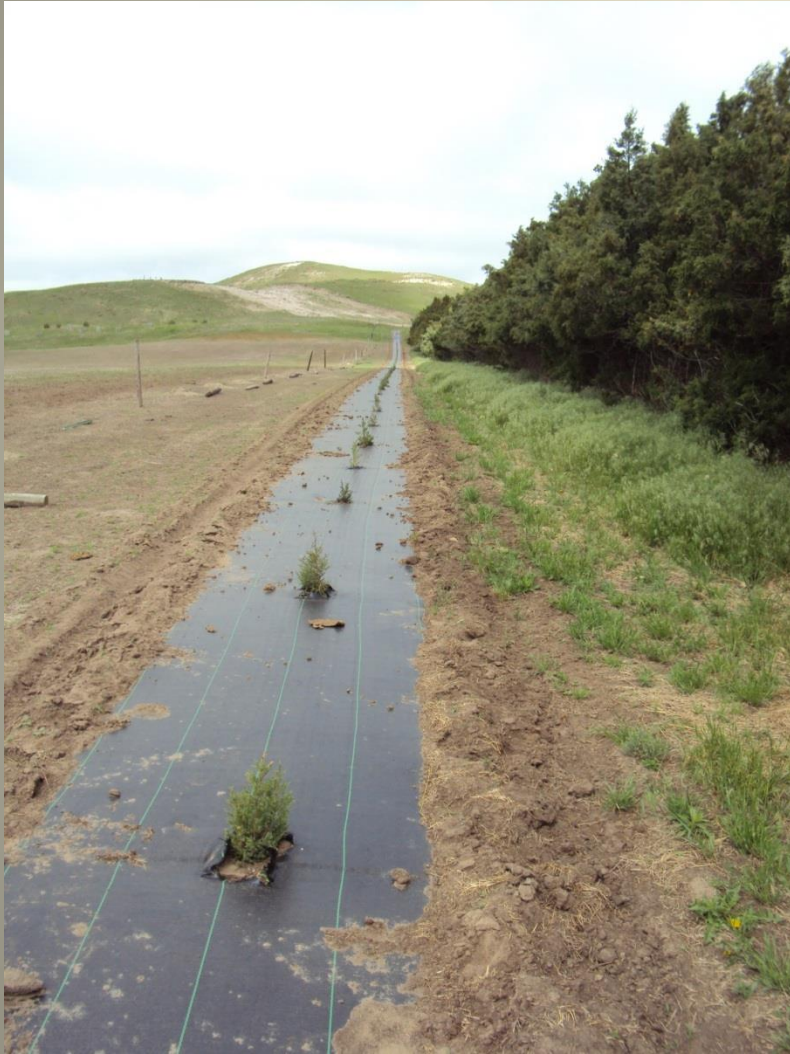
NRD Programs -- Rural Water Systems



NRD Programs -- Recreation



NRD Programs - Tree Program



NRD Programs – Youth Education & Training Opportunities



NRD Programs – Adult Education & Training Opportunities



LR 314 – Interim Study on Water Needs & Funding



Local Funding Sources – Property tax

- Property Tax Levy – up to 8.5 cents per \$100
 - General Levy authority 4.5 cents per \$100 valuation.
 - Groundwater Management 1.0 cent per \$100 valuation
 - Fully Appropriated levy – 3.0 cents per \$100 valuation. (Can only be used if the district has been declared fully appropriated by the State of Nebraska)

Local Funding Sources – Occupation tax

- Occupation tax on irrigated land
 - Only available to districts that are declared fully appropriated.
 - Have to incorporate the use of the tax in the Integrated Water Management Plan
 - Limited to water projects, stream augmentation, riparian management
 - Maximum of \$10/irrigated acre
 - General Obligation bonds can be used

Local Funding Sources – Bonding

- Revenue Bonds – Rural Water Systems
- General Obligation Bonds
 - Occupation Tax on irrigated land for stream augmentation, water supplies, riparian vegetation management.
 - Papio-Missouri River NRD (Omaha) for storm water and flood control
 - Up to 1 cent of the 4.5 cent levy.

Q1. What is each NRDs budget, funding mechanisms, levy authority, levy use, and project costs?

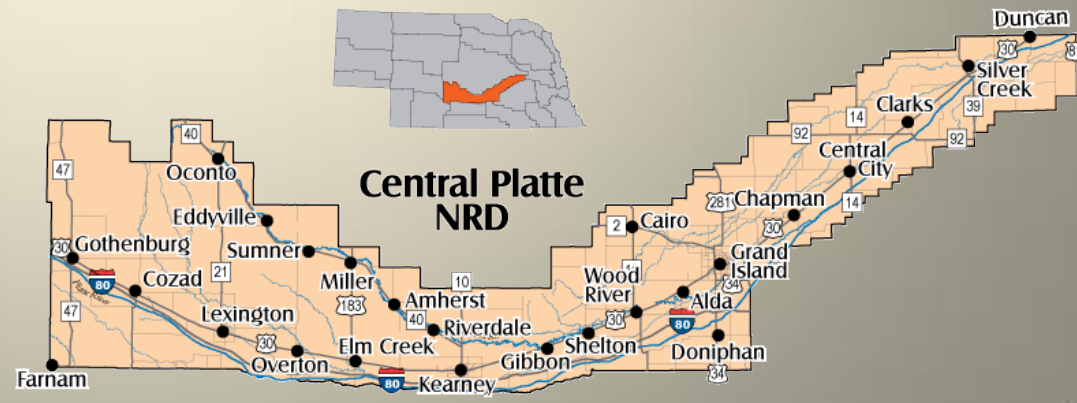
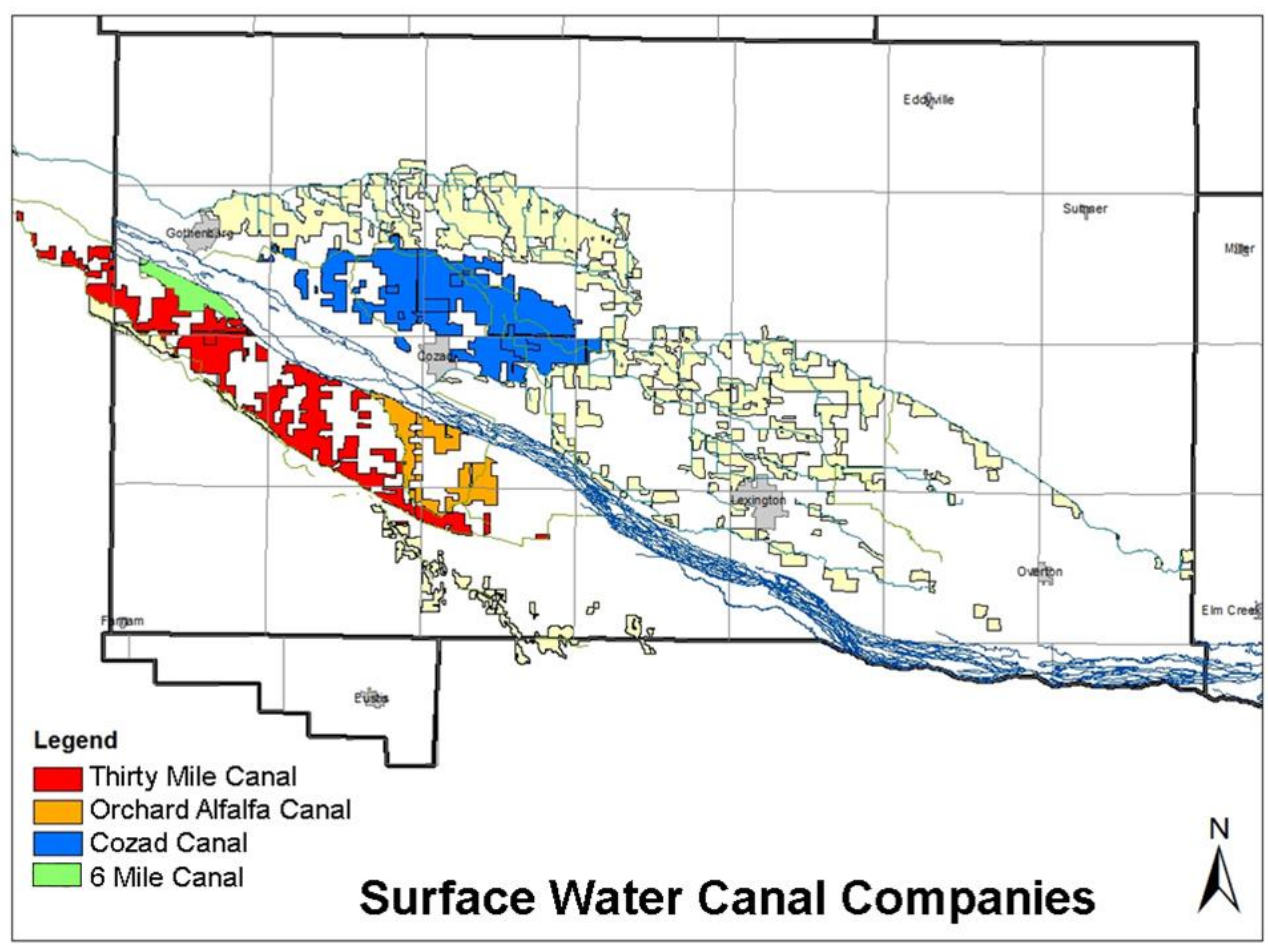
- FY 11-12
 - Total Disbursement \$249 Million
 - Total Tax Request - \$60 Million
 - Occupation Tax \$10 Million
 - Property Tax \$50 Million
- Average Levy 3.74 cents per \$100 valuation
- Local funds leverage other state, federal and grant funds.

Q2 -Are the same tools/practices used in rural and urban NRDs? What is the difference in costs?

- There are significant differences in tax base, resource management, program needs, etc.
- For example, flood control and recreation projects are demanded more in eastern Nebraska where there is more rainfall and which are also near population centers. There is less demand for irrigation.
- By contrast, in central and western Nebraska there are higher demands for irrigation and less demand for flood control and recreation.
- Tax base comparison:
 - A 1 cent levy in the Papio Missouri River NRD will raise about \$5.2 million.
 - A 1 cent levy in the entire Republican River Basin (3 NRDs) will raise \$625,000.
 - A \$1/acre tax on irrigated land in the Republican River Basin (3 NRDs) will raise \$1.1 million
 - A \$1/acre tax on irrigated land in the Papio Missouri River NRD will raise about \$59,500.

NRD Projects





Six Mile Canal

Agreements Completed

- Complete Buy-Out
 - Natural flow irrigation rights in process of being transferred to Thirty Mile Canal.
 - Recharge for groundwater supply or groundwater quality not necessary.



The Six Mile Irrigation Canal at its peak, provided irrigation water to approximately 1,700 acres and multiple landowners.



After the removal of the canal, field rows are longer which saves farmers time and fuel.

Cozad Canal, 30 Mile & Orchard

Agreements Completed

- Management/Lease
- 50-50 Ownership
- Long-term Inter-local Agreements
- About 20,000 acre-feet back to the river with no reduction in irrigated acres.
- Project still provides groundwater recharge



Cozad Canal before clean up.



Cozad Canal after tree removal and cleanup.

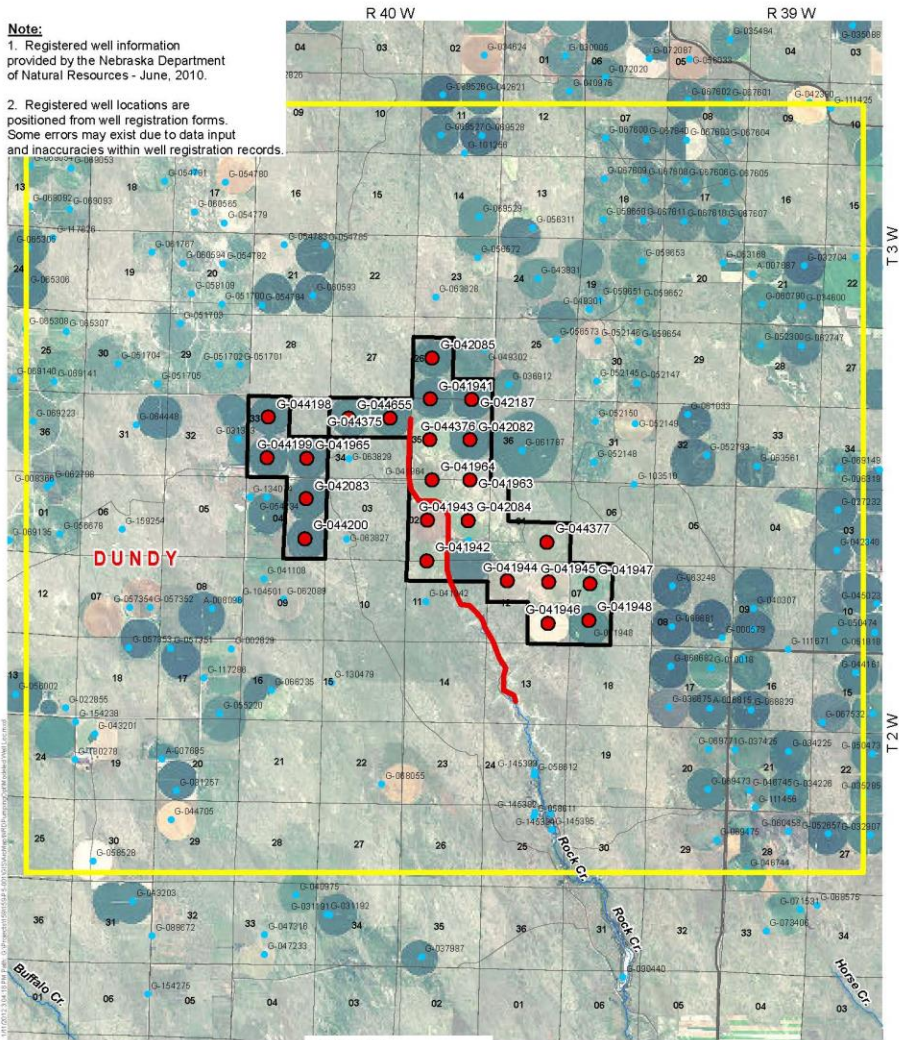
Republican River NRDs - Achieving Compact Compliance

- **Augmentation: The District purchased approximately 3,260 irrigated acres (24 Pivots) in Dundy County**
- **Irrigation pivots removed**
- **The land is restored to native grass**
- **In water-short years, groundwater will be pumped to the Republican River**
 - **Less than the amount consumed by the former crop.**

Note:

1. Registered well information provided by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources - June, 2010.

2. Registered well locations are positioned from well registration forms. Some errors may exist due to data input and inaccuracies within well registration records.



Legend

- Phase 1 Piping
- Study Area
- Property Boundary
- Purchased Well
- Registered Well



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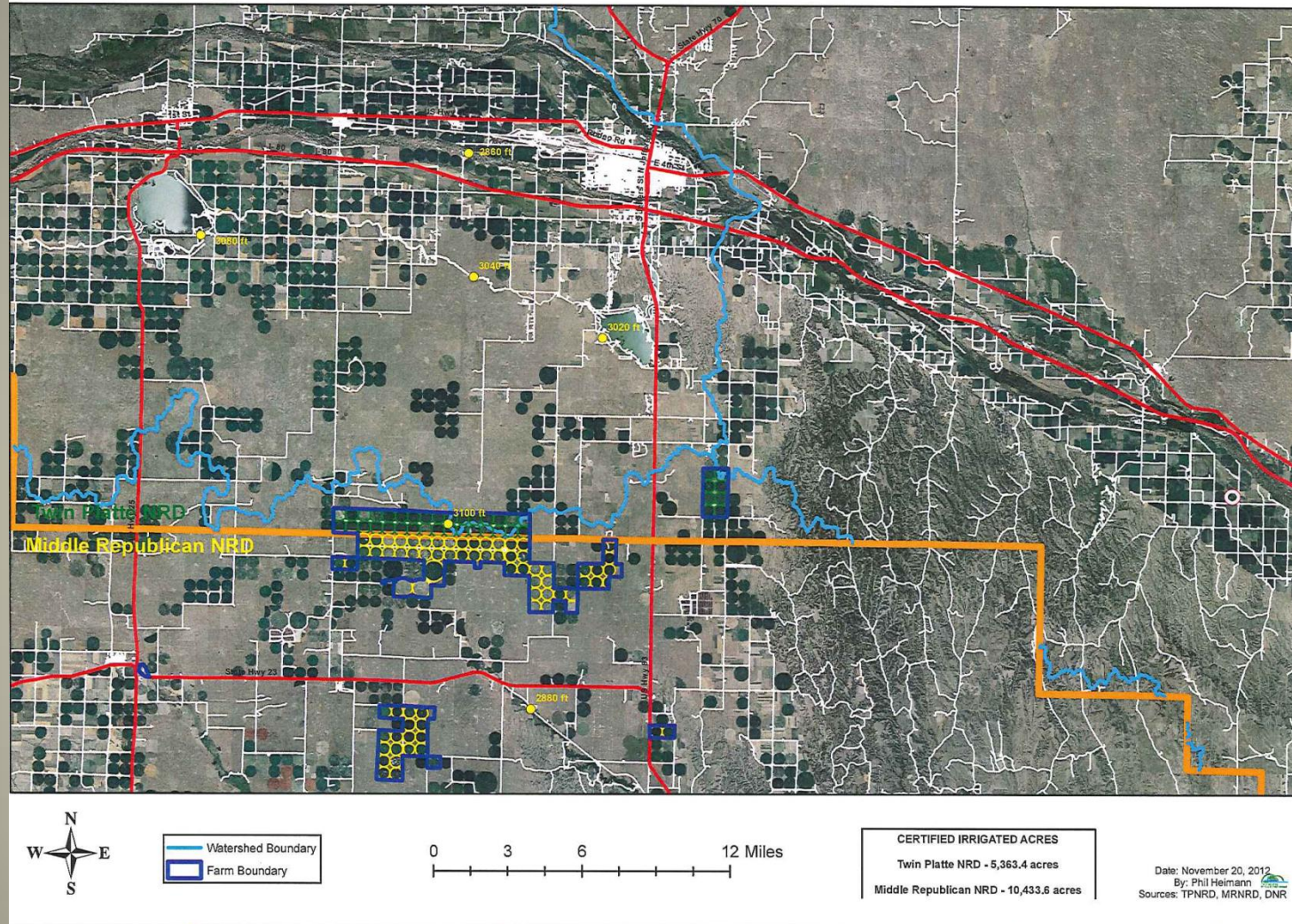
Modeled Well Locations
Upper Republican NRD
Proposed Stream Flow
Enhancement Site
Nebraska



N-CORPE - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

- 15,784 certified irrigated acres
 - Republican -10,240 acres; Platte 5,364 acres
- Purchase Price - \$5,258/irrigated acre
- Twin Platte, Upper, Middle and Lower Republican NRDs (25% share each)
- All acres back to grass
- 15,784 AF credit back to the rivers

Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project N-CORPE



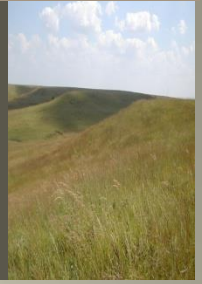
N-CORPE - Nebraska Cooperative Republican Platte Enhancement Project

NRD & Partner Research Projects

- Seven NRDs initiated groundwater modeling project in eastern Nebraska
- Partners
 - Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, United States Geological Survey, Conservation Survey Division-University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Develop groundwater model for Loup and Elkhorn Basins to assist NRD & DNR with conjunctive use management and regulatory decisions.
- Assist with development of controlled growth and/or voluntary IMPs.



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Questions ?

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